

Hunting Season Info.

Deer – See Deer Application for unit maps

East River Deer - **CLOSED**
Archery Deer - **CLOSED**
Muzzleloader Deer - **CLOSED**
Youth/Mentor Deer - **CLOSED**

*Legal shooting time is one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset

Waterfowl – Population Index: [Click Here](#)

Ducks – See unit map in hunting handbook

Low Plains North - **CLOSED**
Low Plains Middle - **CLOSED**
Low Plains South - **CLOSED**

Canada Geese – See unit map in hunting handbook

Unit 1 - **CLOSED**
Unit 2 - **CLOSED**

Light Geese – Open Feb 14 – May 3

White-fronted Geese - **CLOSED**

*Legal shooting time is one-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Pheasant

Statewide - **CLOSED**

Turkey – See Turkey application for unit map and exceptions

Fall - **CLOSED**
Spring - April 11 - May 17 except Davison/Hanson & Lincoln counties.

*Legal shooting time is one-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Aurora County

Lynn Geuke

Fishing report: Fishing has been slow

Wilmarth Mitchell: Anglers have been catching bullhead, some northern pike, and largemouth bass. **No Vehicles Off-road. Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass: Minimum Length 15"**

Nelson Lake: No report. The gate is open to go fish for bullheads.

Hunting Report: Low Activity. Prairie Dogs are out in full force. Have fun be safe.

Beadle County

Chris Kuntz

Fishing Report: Docks are in at Lake Byron, Cavour Lake and the James River near the 3rd St. dam.

James River: The walleye fishing on the James River has continued to improve slightly. Fishing is slow-moderate at various dams along the river.

Lake Byron: No activity.

Mud Lake: No activity.

Cavour Lake: No activity.

Ravine: No activity.

Hunting Report: No activity.

Bon Homme County

Todd Crownover

Fishing Report:

Missouri River: No report.

Lake Henry: No report. **Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass: Minimum Length 15"**

Clear Lake: No report.

Merkel Lake (Singleton GPA): No activity.

West Heritage GPA Pond: No activity. **Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass: Minimum Length 15"**

Hunting Report: Snow geese were first seen over a week ago.

Brookings County

Jeff Grendler

Fishing Reports: Very few fish being caught. Walleyes are just beginning to spawn. Fishing normally doesn't pick up until just walleyes have spawned. The good walleye bite is probably at least two weeks out.

Lake Sinai: **Off limits to game fish spearing.**

West Lake Oakwood:

East Oakwood:

Oak Lake:

Brush Lake:

Lake Poinsett: **Walleye: Minimum Length 15"**

East 81 ponds: **Off limits to game fish spearing.**

Lake Hendricks: **No highgrading of any species.**

Lake Goldsmith:

Lake Campbell:

Dakota Nature Park:

Interstate Lake:

Big Sioux River: A few channel catfish are being caught on the river. Some 4-5 lbs.

Hunting Report: Minimal activity. Turkey hunters will have to spend some time scouting.

Clay County

Tony Stokely

Fishing Report:

Missouri River: Little activity.

Vermillion River: Little activity.

Hunting Report: Turkey gun hunters have been having better success than archery hunters.

Davison County

Andy Petersen

Fishing Report: **Remember Firesteel Creek is off limits to the taking of any baitfish.**

Lake Mitchell: Some small panfish. Walleye off the points **Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass & Walleye: Minimum Length 15"**

James River: Some Walleye below the dams

Firesteel Creek: **Off limits to the taking of any baitfish. Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass & Walleye: Minimum Length 15"**

Hunting Report: No Report.

Hanson County

Andy Petersen/Matt Talbert

Fishing Report: Fishing has been slow yet.

Lake Hanson: Small panfish. **Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass: Minimum Length 15"**

Ethan Dam: No report.

James River: Some walleyes below the dams.

Hunting Report: No report.

Hutchinson County

Brian Humphrey

Fishing Report:

Menno Lake: Slow.

Tripp Lake: Slow.

Dimock Lake: No activity. **Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass: Minimum Length 15"**

James River: Walleyes being caught below the low head dams on the River.

Hunting: Turkey Hunters have has some success on the opening weekend in the James River areas.

Jerauld County

Lynn Geuke

Fishing Report: There has been little activity in the area, due to lack of locations to fish.

Hunting Report: Low hunting activity in the area. It is good time to get the kids out and hunt some gophers and prairie dogs.

Kingsbury County

Shane Van Bockern

Fishing Reports: Very windy weather once again has kept boat traffic to a minimum on area lakes.

Lake Thompson: Slow – fair. Some walleye ,pike and white bass.

West 81: Fair . Some larger walleyes are being taken from 81 grade by shore anglers

Lake Whitewood: SLOW

Lake Henry: SLOW.

Lake Albert: SLOW

Spirit Lake: No activity.

Lake Preston: No activity.

Hunting Report: Most of the Snow geese have migrated through the area.

Lake County

Cody Symens

Fishing Report: All docks are operable in Lake County.

Lake Madison: A few angles catching keeper walleye in the 14-20". Also, a few nice crappie near Johnson's Point.

Lake Herman: The walleye bite has slowed over the last week but anglers continue to catch an occasional walleye.

Brant Lake: Minimal angling pressure.

Long Lake: No report.

Lake Henry: Lake Henry has been hit and miss catching keeper walleye, if you land a fish it could be a big one!

Lake George: Relatively slow but anglers are picking up a few walleye in the 14-18" range.

Hunting Report: No report.

Lincoln County

Nate Stukel

Fishing Report:

Big Sioux: Walleye bite has slowed down a bit with the changing weather.

Lake Alvin: Very little fishing activity. **Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass: Minimum Length 15"**

Hudson: A few Trout are being caught.

Lake Lakota: No fishing activity observed.

Nine Mile Creek: **Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass: Minimum Length 15"**

Hunting Report: No report.

McCook County

Matt Talbert

Fishing Report: Fishing has been slow but should start picking up very soon.

Lake Vermillion: The occasional walleye or pike is being caught. Several White bass have been caught.

Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass: Minimum Length 15"

Island Lake: Occasional pike or walleye. **Off limits to game fish spearing.**

Lehrman Slough: No fishing activity.

Hunting Report: No activity.

Miner County

Evan Meyer

Fishing Report: Water levels are low.

Carthage Lake: Low activity. **Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass: Minimum Length 15"**

Hunting Report: No activity.

Minnehaha County

Jared Hill

Fishing Report:

Beaver Lake: Minimal activity.

Scott Slough: Small perch fair. Otherwise, a few walleye and crappie.

Island Lake: A few walleye. **Off limits to game fish spearing.**

Loss Lake: Minimal activity.

Lost Lake: Minimal activity.

Twin Lakes: A few walleye. **Walleye: Daily limit 1; Minimum length 28"**

Family Park: A few trout and walleye.

Wall Lake: A few small perch and bluegills.

Clear Lake: No reports.

Diamond Lake: A few small walleye.

Hunting Report: Not much activity.

Moody County

Chad Williams

Fishing Report:

Big Sioux River: Anglers are starting to have some success catching a few walleyes, but it has not reached a peak bite yet. There has been good numbers of northern pike and channel catfish being caught. Channel catfish – beef liver. Northern pike – jigs / minnows or spoon lures.

Hunting Report: The archery spring turkey season is underway, with the prairie firearm season to open this weekend. I have seen good numbers of turkeys along the Big Sioux River corridor. Turkeys are still bunched up; Toms are starting to be more active with strutting and gobbling on warm / sunny days.

Sanborn County

Evan Meyer

Fishing Report: Fishing activity has been fair on James River with some walleyes being caught, water levels are low.

Hunting Report: No activity.

Turner County

Brian Humphrey

Fishing Report: There have been a few nice crappies caught at Swan Lake.

Hunting: Turkey hunters have had some success calling in Toms along the Vermillion River.

Union County

Tony Stokely / Nate Stukel

Fishing Report:

Missouri River: Very little activity.

Big Sioux River: Very little activity.

McCook Lake: Very little activity. **Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass: Minimum Length 15"**

Hunting Report: Turkey gun hunters have been having better success than archery hunters.

Yankton County

Dan Altman

Fishing Report:

Marindahl: Minimal activity and success. Boat anglers are picking up crappie here and there but the action is slow.

Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass: Minimum Length 15"

Lewis and Clark: Minimal activity and success **Walleye: Minimum Length 15"**

James River: Minimal activity. Anglers near Kelly's Cove are catching small catfish. **Any sturgeon caught must be immediately returned to the water.**

Lake Yankton: Lake Yankton was chemically renovated in fall 2014 to eliminate invasive fish species. It has been restocked but it may be 1-3 years before good fishing returns.

Missouri River: Most fishing activity has been near Gavin's Point Dam. Anglers are picking up occasional walleye, white bass and drum. Remember discarding rough fish on shore lines is illegal.

Hunting Report: No Report.